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Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session

Declaration by the United Nations of 8 and 9 May as days of remembrance and reconciliation

Letter dated 12 August 2004 from the representatives of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, we have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "Declaration by the United Nations of 8 and 9 May as days of remembrance and reconciliation", with subsequent consideration of this item directly at a plenary meeting of the General Assembly.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum has been attached to this letter (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

Republic of Armenia
(*Signed*) Armen **Martirosyan**
Permanent Representative

Republic of Belarus
(*Signed*) Aleg **Ivanou**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Republic of Kazakhstan
(*Signed*) Murat **Smagulov**
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Republic of Tajikistan
(*Signed*) Rashid **Alimov**
Permanent Representative

Turkmenistan
(*Signed*) Aksoltan **Ataeva**
Permanent Representative

Republic of Uzbekistan
(*Signed*) Alisher **Vohidov**
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 12 August 2004 from the representatives of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Explanatory memorandum

In 2005, the world will celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the victory over fascism. The great victory in the Second World War was brought about through the efforts of the peoples of many countries. It gave a powerful impetus to the unification of the international community, the result of which was the establishment of the United Nations. Through the suffering and deaths of millions of people, the nations of the world became aware of the lack of an alternative to the collective security system, which was embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, for maintaining international peace.

The peoples of our countries bore on their shoulders the essential brunt of the war and, therefore, we, as no one else, are convinced that there are no objectives which would justify the unleashing of war.

Today, it is important to recall the lessons of the Second World War, to hold sacred the memory of those who perished, to exclude, on behalf of the life and freedom of mankind, the very possibility of a recurrence of world wars, and to unite the efforts of the international community in dealing with new challenges and threats with the central role of the United Nations.

The States Members of the United Nations must jointly undertake all possible efforts in order to put an end to current armed conflicts on a political basis, prevent the emergence of such conflicts in the future and promote the maintenance of stable and lasting peace.

The further strengthening of the role and effectiveness of the United Nations as the central element of the collective security system in achieving the lofty purpose proclaimed in its Charter of "saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war" is in the general interests of mankind.

The consideration of this agenda item could lead to the adoption by the General Assembly of a resolution on "the declaration by the United Nations of 8 and 9 May as days of remembrance and reconciliation". On this occasion, a special ceremonial meeting of the Assembly could be held, during which a declaration aimed at uniting mankind on behalf of the general goals of peace and progress, and the prevention of further world wars could be adopted.